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1911

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Newspapers Articles

Extracts from the "MAIL"

for the year 1911

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Indians and Army commissions. 28-1-1911.

The idea of associating the Indian Princes with local military concerns was originated by Lord Lytton, Under whose recommendations a few of them were given honorary rank in the Army, when the Queen's Proclamation Durbar was held at Delhi And since then these marks of distinction have been periodically conferred upon some of the principle Rulers, the most recent example being H.H. the Nisam, who was made a Lientenant General last year. In Lord Dufferin's era, the Imperial Service troops were formed as an out let for the military ardour evoked by the Hyderabad offer of funds for Frontier defence purposes, and also with the object of inducing the Princes to disband their useless and costly (Irregularities)? In some instances, notably Gwallior, this result has been achieved; but many of them still cling to the old ideals, with the disapperance of which Indian pagentry would be the poorer, while Boroda has steadily refused to follow the general example and retain troops for Imperial purposes. Eight or nine years ago, Lord Curzon, who was responsible for the reformation of the Chief's colleges with such excellent results established the Imperial cadet comps, for the purpose of finding suitable, accupation for the younger scions of the Ruling Houses and members of the Indian aristocracy whose traditions inclined them towards a military life, instead of the comparative monotany of Civil work. But during Lord Minto's viceroyalty little or nothing was heard about the further development of this scheme, probably because more urgent matters of state claimed official attention.

There is no doubt that the concessions we have enumerated were intended to conciliate the military

ambitions still observable in the larger states and amongst the landed gentry who have traditions extending back to the old Maghul and Mohamatta days, when fighting and the creation of hereditary holdings were the chief occupations of any ~~patrician~~ patrician who could command a following. These features disappeared with the final imposition of the Pax Britannica dating from the era of the Marguis of Hastings and the establishment of a potectorate under which the states were prohibited from submitting disputes to the arbitrament of arms. For years past there has been a growing feeling that the higher commissioned ranks of the Indian Army might be thrown open to the classes indicated, and this desire has, perhaps, become more pronounced recently as a consequence of the civil reforms. Accassionally during Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty the Hon'ble Mr.Gokhale pleaded from his place in Council for longer concessions in this direction but Lord Kitchener, though sympathetic, was unable to agree that the time had arrived for making them. In this connection, it may be mentioned that during his regime great improvements were made in the educational status and prospects of the Native officers, one of his last proposals, since translated into practice, being that men with good records should be selected for contonment employment upon ~~should be selected for contonment~~ salaries graduated on a most liberal scale. It was perhaps, anticipated that these ameliorations would attract men of position and standing to the Indian Army, but if H.H. the Aga Khan may be accepted as an authority, this has not happened, and will not accur so long as promotions in the commissioned ranks are restricted to their present standards.

The Aga Khan, whose educational activities are now directed towards the founding of a Mohomodan University,

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has already published his views concerning the abolition of the armements of the Native states and the proportionate increases of the Imperial Service Troops and he ~~more~~ now championns the cause of the aristocracy whose military ardour is circumscribed by the official hesitancy to promote Indians beyond Squadron or company officers. His proposals are contained in an appreciative article on Lord Minto's Administration printed in the National Review for January, and are certain to attract attention and, perhpas, some questioning during the present session of the Imperial legislative council, especially as the London Committee of the All India Muslim League as the Reuter informs as today, addressed Lord Crewe on the subject. His Highness would abolish the present limitations and make it possible for properly qualified Indians to rise to the command of Regiments and other executive appointments in the Military service as a natural corollary to the concessions given to them in civil affairs, instead of discriminatigg between their advanced employment in the administrative and martial branches of the Government. He supports his thesis by a reference to suggestion made by Mr.Valentine chirol, who, in noticing this omission from the late Viceroy's scheme of reforms, recommends that steps should be taken to repair it as future opportunities arise-says Mr.Chirol - "It is a strange anomaly that at a time when we have no hesitation in introducing Indians into our Executive councils, those who serve the King Emperor in the Indian Army can only rise to quite subordinate rank. A good deal has no doubt been done to improve the quality of the Native officers from the point of view of military education, but, under present conditions, the Army does not offer a career that can attract Indians of good position, though it is just among the landed

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aristocracy and gentry of India that military traditions are combined with the strongest traditions of loyalty.

This is a fair argument from the Aga Khan's standpoint, and, probably, expresses the views, of those who regard the recent civil concessions as but a preliminary to more potent recognitions of Indian claims, though it might be pointed out that the control and the management of the Army xxxxxxxxx are matters which, for obvious reasons, stand upon a totally different footing to the other branches of our official dieranchy. But when the Aga Khan seeks to emphasise his proposals by alarmist methods, we disagree with his conclusions, as although there may be a desire in some quarters to synchronise Military and civil reforms, we do not think that the hesitation to do so can be regarded as perilous on racial grounds, or that the Army itself has inclinations in this direction which ought to be consulted and prohitiated. We are asked to bexx true that a continance of existing conditions will in time undermine the self respect of the Indian soldier and his moral effeciency and, perhaps, his loyalty", because, the Indian people are led and influenced by their countrymen of high birth and good positions and so far from this absolute racial bar serving as a safeguard, its maintanance is a source of weakness, and must, if persisted in, become a source of actual peril Many competent military authorities who have studied this question with, perhaps, a greater knowledge of all its congress ramifications than the Aga khan passesses, are of opinion that the peril would assume a different aspect to those pictured by His Highness if there were any appreciable modifications of the existing systems of control in Army matters for years to come. And, moreover, it has to be remembered that the civil reforms which are

adduced as an argument for corresponding concessions in the commissioned ranks of the Army are still in the experimental stage, and that further developments will depend upon the optitude displayed by Indians for their new responsibilities. It may be possible, presently, to meet the military aspirations which undoubted by exist among certain classes of the aristocracy, and the government may be trusted to do so as opportunities offer for the encouragement of this legitimate form of patriotism, but the marshalling of imaginary perils is unlikely to accelerate their action. We hope, therefore, that the Agakhan for whom we have the highest admiration as a brilliant and forceful leader of the new Islam in India, will not be imitated in this respect by less scrupulous writers.

The Executive Councils. 21 - 2 - 1911.

The India councils Act of 18 months ago, which launched the new representative Reforms, provided, among other matters, for the addition of a local" member to each of the three advisary bodies with which the provincial Governments are quipped, and the formation of an Executive council for Bengal. The latter Province not withstanding the partition, is still, too burdensome a charge for a single official and, as Sir Edward Baker was willing to accept assistance for the control of its administrative affairs, it was decided to commence the council's experi - ment in Calcutta and to extend it to the other four Lientenant Governorships as opportunities arose, on circumstances pointed to the desirability of making the change. It is thus apparant that eight of the highest positions in the official hierarchy were to be earmarked for Indians of proved ability and standing. In order that the field of selection should be as comprehensive as possible, and not limited to those already in the Service, a further surrender was made. Under the provisions of the old councils Act, no one could become a member of the executive bodies who had not at least ten years' official experience to his credit, its object, doubtless, being to prevent the hoisting of junior civilians into positions for which they were not qualified by length of service on experience. But this restriction has been removed so far as Indians are concerned, and it is not ever necessary for those selected to have had any previous association with administrative affairs, the principle standards to which they have to conform being educational, combined with matters likely to come under deliberation. It was this concession that enabled the

the Governments to make their first choice from the non-official classes, and it was anticipated apparently that there would be no trouble in procuring individuals answering those requirements for appo ntments which, apart from the attractive salaries appended to them, are striking examples of the new policy which aims at attracting the best indigenous talent to the aid of the state. It is true that the term of office is limited to five years, as in the case of their Anglo Indian colleogues and that there are no pensionary inducements, the omission of the latter being probably due to the fact that the councillors would usually be drawn from classes to whom financial considerations won matters of small moment, when contrusted with the distinction and confidence typified by their association with the principal representatives.

But soon after the inception of this portion of the Reforms it became manifest that, although aspirants to the new posts were not lacking, the number who possessed the requisite qualifications for them was extremely limitted, and that there was no great desire on the part of those approached in the first instance to accept appointments which would interfere with their usual pursuits. The late legal member of the Viceroy's council has told /us that his principal reason for giving up a practice that brought him a far larger income than the emoluments of his new office was a desire to meet the wishes of Lord Minto, who considered that his acceptance of it would be a useful incentive to other Indians of ability to follow his example. We have the ex Viceroy's own testimony that Mr.Simha's Brief term of official employment was a successful demonstration of the capability of an Indian to discharge functions hitherto reserved for British jurists, but financial reasons obliged him to relinquish it, and to

to revert to a practice that was much lucratice than the Legal Membership. He was now been succeeded by a Mahomedan gentleman, who has probably not had to make so large a sacrifice of personal interests by temporarily quitting the Bar, and has, therefore, stronger inducements to hold the office for the full term. The moral of this episode appears to bexxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxx xxxxxxx that Indians in the front ranks of the legal profession, much as they would appreciate the distinction, are not prepared to subordinate personal interests to patriotism when the latter holds out no corresponding pecuniary advantages, and the Government have doubtless taken note of this disinclination and will use it as a guide for future selections.

Madras was fortunate in being as its first xx indigenous councillor the Maharajah of Bobbili, but he also has discovered that the management of large landed estates is not compatible with official exigencies, and the vacancy caused by his resignation has been filled b by the translation of one of the High Court judges to the executive appointement. Bombay is, apparently, likely to retain the services of the Hon'ble Mr.Chaubol for the full quin quemilling as there are no indications of his wish to give upon an office for which he has shown great capacity and an independence that has won him the esteam of his Anglo Indian colleagues. While the changes we have specified are indicative of the difficulties that have arisen in connection with these appointments, the situation in Bengal has been a striking object lesson in the same direction. There, it will be remembered the new councillorship was hawked about for several months before its government were able to announce that some one had been discovered who

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who was willing to take it, and thus enable the Leientenant governor to complete his cabinet. This disinclination of qualified Indians to accept and held the high offices thrown open to them in response to the demands of the last quarter of a century voiced by the congress and other popular Associations is a puzzling and unexpected development.

In this connection, we had, a few days ago, the apparently inspired announcement in the Times that, in view of the existing situation, certain amendments in the Service Rules had been agreed, upon which would enable Indian Members of the High Courts to take up these appointments without prejudice to their pensionary claims. By the removal of this disability, Judges who may accept seats on the Executive councils will be in a position to count their quinquennium of office towards the amunities granted after specified term of service on the Bench. It is expected that thus concession will ameliorate the position so far as the lawyers are concerned, and it will probably have this effect, but it will make no alteration in the general attitude of the educated classes from whom the government expected to draw some of their recruits, while in some quarters it may be regarded as an indication that, until matters mend, the official choice is likely to be restricted to successful Barristers and pleaders. It will be unfortunate if this impression should arise, but the blame for it will rest with those who, for financial and other reasons, decline to take advantage of the opportunities placed within their reach by the generous policy of the vicerogal council. a resolution was moved by one of the Non-official members urging the government to create an Executive body for the united Provinces, for no special reason except that

this latent provisions in the Act with regard to the remaining four ~~District~~ Lieutenant Governorships might be used to assuage popular aspirations. But the proposal was rejected by a large majority, the voting being probably influenced by this official declaration during the debate, that no action would be taken in this direction unless a ~~District~~ Lt. Governor asked to be releived of some of his personal responsibilities by their transfer to a council. Nothing was said about the difficulty of filling the four high appointments already allotted to Indians, though this might have been used as an argument against further expansion for the present, because it will undoubtedly act as a bar to bush concessions until the Government are convinced of their necessity, and there is a fuller response to call for qualified man to accupy the Great position now open to indigenous talent.

Indians in South Africa. 2 - 3 - 1911.

At present it is hopeless to expect that colonials will give to the term British citizen the meaning which it ought logically to bear. Many of the natives of South Africa are British citizens, but the colonials will not treat them as anything but inferior and barbarious race. Therefore, as they have their own commercial reasons for objecting to the prefence of Asiatics, it is not unnatural that they should decline to recognise, or perhaps are ought to say, are incapable of recognising, the latter as British citizens in the full and true sense of the word. The most that can be hoped is that they may behave with justice to these British Indians who are lawfully resident in South Africa, and may be ready to compromise on certain points. Indians may find some consolation in certain features of the recent debate at Cape Town. Mr.Merriman and others pleaded for fair play for vested interests, and Mr.Smuts replied that it was impossible to ignore the justice of that claim. Moreover, the latter delcared himself ready to concede one of the most important of the Indian demands in consideration of the wishes of the Imperial government. This was the request that a certain number of Indian professional men lawyers, Doctors, and the like, might be admitted annually to serve their countrymen in South Africa. This announcement is to be received with satisfaction. At the same time, it is an unusual pleasure to bear Mr.Sruts giving a tribute to praise to the staunch manner in which the Indians stood together and suffered for what they regarded as their rights. But the Wily Boer is likely to prove more than a match for the Indians. His nation gained the respect of British soldiers for the staunchness with which the Burghers coninued

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continued a hopeless struggle for what they considered to be their rights, while in intrigue and in all that is connoted by the epithet "slim" the Boers are the equal of the most suppple Asiatics. Backed by the whole force and authority of the constitution which the British Parliament granted, and with an almost unanimous popular sentiment behind him, Mr.Smuts will probably prove irresistable in carrying out the policy of his Government. It is kindness to the Indians to hope for a speedy ending of the agony, and if sufficient compensation were given, it is possible that worse solutions of the difficulty might be found than compulsory deportation of all Indian traders. It would be a wrong, and it would probably prove in the end a loss to South Africa, but it might be the best thing for the Indians.

Naturally the South Africans are irritated at the action of the Indian Government in prohibiting emigration to Natal, and they will probably stock at little in accomplishing their purpose. The legislation which Mr.Smuts adumberated is well calculated to achieve that purpose. Asiatics are to be prevented from travelling from Province to Province, and must remain in that in which they are domiciled. This in certain instances, probably in many, will severely minimise the profits of traders, and make them move inclined to leave South African's inhospitable shores. Trading licences are not to be confiscated, said Mr.Smuts, but their number is to be limited. Much depends upon the manner in which effect is given to that policy. The worst feature of the matter is that the Word of Mr.Smuts does not carry confidence. He may proclaim a reasonable policy in

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in the council chamber, while his subordinate officials, by their interpretation thereof, are practically robbing the unfortunate Indians of their rights. Charges of this nature have frequently been brought, and it is hard to believe that they are all without foundation. At the sametime, it cannot be accepted as proved that the lot of Indian coolies in Natal is miserable. Were it so, the returned immigrants would soon let the fact be known in India, and it would be impossible to recruit other coolies. As a matter of fact, the emigrants are pleased at rturning with substantial sums of money in their packets, and a favourable impression of emigration exists among the ryots. It is important to bear this in mind, because at the meeting of the Indian South African league held in Madras yesterday, a Resolution was passed and speeches were made with the object of preventing any coolies from proceeding to South Africa before the date on which indentured recruitment becomes illegal. It may be desirable to take this action in support of the principle of relation, but it is not quite correct to represent it as taken in the interests of the coolies. It would be diametrically the opposite.

The strongest weapon which the proposed legislation in South Africa will put into the hands of resolute and possibly unscrupulous agents is the educational test. A similar test exists in America for admitting Negroes to the privilege of a vote, and it has proved an easy matter for the examiner to let an ignorant while peasant pass by giving him a ridiculously easy paper,

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and to reject a Negro of fair education by means of an intricate passage full of long and abscure words. The same process could easily be employed by the Immigration officers in South Africa. At the Meeting held in Madras yesterday, Mr.P.N.Raman Pillay affroned of the introducation of an educational test as removing all racial prejudices". It may, of course, be regarded in that light, but its effect will probably be to make Indian immigration more difficult than before. However, the right of free and unrestricted immigration is not one of the demands put forward by Mr.Gandhi and his followers. They will be content if the lawfully resident Indians are treated with justice, and if a stated number of professional men from among their compatriots are yearly admitted into the country. The second point, as we have mentioned, will probably be granted. It would d do South Africa no material harm, but add much to her reputation, if the first point were granted also. The opposition comes, of course, from petty white traders, who desire for their own ends to maintain the present trend of high princes in South Africa. Their natural, but selfish, desire is supported by the whites in general for various reasons. The ultra democratic tendency of a young country always inclines to the support of the lawer clauses, without regard for the benefit of the whole community. South Africa is not in the power of Labourites as Australia is, but its sentiments lean in the same direction. The absence of an Imperial spirit among the Boers is another contributory factor. This fact, too, is not unvatural, but it is extremely unfortunate for Indians and for the satisfactory solution of a

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Great Imperial problem. Wastly, contact with an inferior and sanage black race, whose presence is a standing menace to the existence of the whites, inspires Boer and British alike with a colour prejudice, such is unknown either in England or in India. In fact, the Indian cause in South Africa appears very hopless and we can only regret that that country was ever chosen as a field for Indian emigration.

Europeans and Indians. 3 - 3 - 1911.

All who are interested in the promotion of more friendly relations between Europeans and Indians in India will welcome the action of the Government of Madras in issuing a Memorandum of instructions on the subject of social and official intercourse between Euroepan officials and Indians. Though it is primarily intended for the guidance of officials who are new to the country and to the manners and customs of the people the Memorandum contains many hints based on long experience of the ways of the two communities which cannot fail to be careful even to non official Euroepans. Misunderstandings and omissions in regard to common rules. and observances in dealing with Indians by Euroepans, and Vice Versa, have often been a source of mutual ill feeling, and have played some part, however small, in contributing to the unrest in India. Perhaps no other subject requires to be kept more unremittingly in view by the friends of British rule in India than this problem of the promotion of friendly inter course between members of the two communities. It is therefore right that the Government should take their junior European officers in hand, while yet they are new to Indian conditions, and instruct them in these matters and try to smooth their path for the future in their official careers. The instructions relate to various points of eliguatte which though they may be trivial in themselves, are apt to engender feelings of bitterness in Indians when omitted to be observed. That a greater degree of friendly intercourse is both possible and desirable can hardly be denied. Such mutual friendly relations may without exaggeration be said to be valuable asset to the

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British Empire itself, and the better sections of the Indian community must be impelled by ~~xxx~~ considerations of self interest, even if by no higher considerations, to respond to all attempts to secure so desirable a result.

The object that it is sought to obtain by the Memorandum is highly commendable, and the Hon'ble Mr.W.O. Harve, the President of the Board of Examiners, who has drawn it up, is rightly commended by government for the excellent manner in which he has performed his task." The instructions and beirf, and necessarily of a somewhat general character, but while chiefly designed for the guidance of young English officials, a few useful hints are given to Indians with regard to their treatment of Europeans. Appended to the Memorandum is the Minute which Sir John ~~Maxxim~~ Malcolm wrote in June 1821, and sent to all his Assitants in Central India, and which, though written nearly a century ago, says Mr.Horme, and through some of its observations are not wholly applicable to modern conditions, still continue much valuable advice". One matter of which Indian gentlemen have complained is the manner in which they are sometimes treated when they visit officials, being made to wait without any attentin being paid to them, without a chair to sit on, and left out in the sun, or in some similar undignified position. No English gentleman would willingly do this; the culprits are the officials~~xxx~~ peons and servants, who "very often demand, openly or impliedly money presents from visitors, and, failing compliance, are apt to offer passive, if not active, insolence. The greatest care should be taken to check this tendency, and tetection should be followed by severe punishment. Respectable Indians have a keen dread of the humiliation which it is sometimes in the power of menials to

inflict upon them. "We know that none can not be made ~~xxxxxx~~ moral by Act of Parliament, but anything that helps to improve morality is desirable in itself, and we therefore commend this little brochure to the careful perusal of both Indians and Europeans.

The Seditious Meetings Act. 21 - 3 - 1911.

The prevention of seditious Meetings Act has now been placed permanently on the statute Book, not, however, without evoking much opposition from a section of Non-official Members of the Imperial Legislative Council. The Government of India have amended the Act in some important particulars which even the dissantients, Messrs.Gokhale, Basu, Haque and Mudhalkar admit remove some of the most objectionable features of the Act of 1907". But these and other opponents to the measure could not reconcile themselves to the Act being placed permanently on the Statute Book. Their arguments, however, failed to carry conviction to those who approached the question untramonded by considerations of popular sentiment or imaginery apprehension. It is difficult to see how on Bill aimed merely and obviously at the revolutionary elements in the country can possibly injure the law-abiding and loyal sections of the community. Far from that, the measure is directly calculated to protect large bodies of innocent and ignorant people from the disloyal and seditious individuals and organisations. As what truly remarked by the Hon'ble Mr.Ali Imam, the permanancy of the Act can not be a blot on, or reproach to, the good name of India or Indians, "but it willbe the greatest condemnation that India's representatives can give to any suggestion that implies a doubt regarding her loyalty. The loyal population has nothing what ever to fear from preventure legislation of the characted, for, as the Legal Member pointed out, this Weapon will repose in the legal armoury unless and until the forces of sedition threaten to carrupt the allegiance of a particular area. In agreeing to remove from the old Act, in response to non-official criticism, some

important provisions, the Government of India have gone as far as they could safely go to conciliate popular demands, and to make the new Act as little obnoxious as possible. For instance, the clause which laid down the presumption that every meeting of 20 ~~yxxxx~~ persons and above was to be taken for granted to be a Public Meeting, has been dropped. Similarly, the provision which prohibited and penalised to holding of a Meeting for the discussion of political subjects without notice or permission has been abandoned. Certain powers which were enjoyed by the police under the old Act have been ~~abandoned. Certain pow3rs which were enjoyed by the police under the old act have been~~ withdrawn, and are vested now in the District Magistrate or a First class Magistrate specially empowered; and the power to proclaim an area can now be only exercised by Local Governments with the previous sanction of the Government of India.

With the new order of things which the Reforms have brought into existence any abuse of power by individual officials is sure to be brought to notice and severely criticised, and this above is a sufficient protection of individual rights and liberties. The apprehension expressed is council and in the Indian Press that there may be abuse of power can not seriously considered as an argument against the Act, for it is an argument which can be advanced against every legislature enactment intended to secure law and order among the Genral community. Nor is there any force in the argument that the ordinary criminal law of the lend is adequate to serve the purpose of this special legislation, for while the former is mainly ~~prixxt~~ punitive ~~in character, the latter,~~

in character, the latter, in the words of His Excellency the Viceroy, is intended to meet the very grave and serious situation that has developed during the last few years in certain parts of the country, and is preventive in its scope. Whether the Act is re-enacted for a particular period from time to time, with the attendant irritation associated with such intermitent legislation, on is put permanently on the statute Book, it lies entirely with the people ~~of the country~~ by their conduct, to let it remain a dead letter or cause it to be brought into operation. His Excellency Lord Hardinge gave the assurance that, to show his trust and confidence in the people of India, he did not intend to extend the Act to any part of the country unless the necessity arose. And it is sincerely to be hoped that such an accasion may never arise. In concluding the debate the Viceroy made a note worthy speech, in which he absured Hon'ble Members to rally to the side of Government in passing an Act which will not only resist sedition and crime, but which will, at the same time, protect your sons and the sons of your friends and relations from pernicious and disloyal teachings that can ordain (?) hatredness and disaster.

The Land holders Association. 3-4-1911.

The Madras Land holders association held its annual Meeting Yesterday, when the Maharaja of Venkatagiri in his Presidential address, reviewed the work of the Association during the past year-and it was a very satisfactory record which we presented to the members. Referring in feeling terms to the great loss which the Empire has sustained by the death of King Edward VII, As dwelt on the fact that His Majesty was, not merely the Sovereign of his subjects, but a friend and benefactor, whose constant love for his Indian subjects and his great solicitude for their welfare had endeared him to all and evoked on every side undying affection for his person and emfaicing loyalty to his Throne. The Maharajah also refeered to the coronation Durbar at Delhi, a new feature in the history of India; the event was one of unique significance and would be celebrated with great joy and solemnity in every Indian Home as a national festival. The President then proceeded to state that experience of the working of the Madras Estates Land Act had confirmed, to a large extent, the Association's apprehensions of its injurious effects on landholders, and he expressed the hope that the Memorial which had recently been submitted to Government by the Association, pointing out the directions in which the Act required modification, would receive sympathetic consideration. As regards the draft Irrigation Bill, the Association had very carefully considered it and embodied its criticisms in a Memorandum to Government. The President regretted that Government had not seen their way to abolish the Proprietory village Service cess and hosed that as the financial position of the Government had improved, the

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import might now be abolished, as in the case of ryotwari villages and in Zamindaries in the north of India.

The first subject that was discussed at the Meeting was the Rajkumar college scheme, which was initiates at the instance of the Maharajah of Bobbili, and an earnest appeal to Zamindars was made for financial help to ensure the success of the scheme. The matter is one which affects their interests and their future position as an important factor in the body politic; and everyone who is at all interested in the Welfare of this class will welcome the proposed institution, if it ever becomes an accomplished fact. The recent reforms have given the Zamindars a recognised and prominent place in the councils of the Empire, and have thus afforded them opportunities of participating in the public affairs of the country. Though for centuries they have played an important part in the history of India, they have failed to take full advantage of the progressive forces of modern civilisation and education which have been at work since the advent of the British in India. They have therefore, lost ground to some extent as natural leaders of society, and we can conceive of no more potent means for regaining their ancient status, and keeping themselves abreast of the times, than education on modern lines, and to this end they are now wisely directing their attention. With the liberal help which the Government have already promised, and with the guidance and support of such enlighted leaders as the Maharajah of Bobbili, the Hon'ble the Rajah of Vizayanagaram and the Rajah of Ettiyapuram, it is only a question of time for this scheme to be brought into operation.

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Another important proposal is the formation of a Land holders co-operation Bank in Madras, on the lines of the Prussian Land chaften, described at length in Sir Frederick Nicholson's Memorandum or Agricultural Banks. The Hon'ble the Zamindar of Dodelappanayakanur, in proposing the Resolution, referred to the benefits which the Bank was likely to confer upon Zamindars. Such a Bank should greatly benefit many landed proprietors, enabling some of them to rectify the results of past improvidence, while impressing on all the advantages of thrift and mutual help, quickening in them a sense of individual responsibility, accustoming them to business methods and habits, and, above all, placing at their disposal the combined credit of the whole of their class in furtherance of industrial and agricultural interprise. The scheme is brought with great possibilities, and deserves careful consideration. That the Association is determined not to let matters drift is evidenced by the fact that it has appointed a committee - consisting of the Rajah of Ettiyapuram the Hon'ble Rajah of Hollendgode, the Hon'ble Mr.P.Theagaraya chetty, the Hon'ble Mr.Shunmugham pillay and the Hon'ble the Zamindar of Doddappanaya kanur to draw up a working scheme in consultation with Dewan Bahadur L.D.Swamikannu Pillay, the Registrar of co-operative credit Societies. The meeting has resolved to present an address to His Majesty the King Emperor on the occasion of his coronation in June, and has thus taken the lead in a matter in which other representative and prominent bodies will no doubt follow suit in the next few weeks. The Association re-elected the Maharajah of Bobbili as its Vice-

Vice-president, and expressed its satisfaction with the way in which he had discharged the duties of the first Indian Member of the Executive Council of Madras. The landholders Association is steadily widening its sphere of activity and usefulness, and is to be congratulated on its work during the past year.

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The Provincial Conference. 8 - 5 - 1911.

The Madras Provincial conference met in Madras again today, after an interval of 14 years, under the presidency of Rao Bahadur V.K.Ramanujachariar, retired Secretary to the Board of Revenue in the Settlement Department. During the interval there have been many striking changes in the public life of the country which were reflected in the address on the Hon'ble Mr.T.V. Seshagiri Iyer, the chariman of the Reception committee, and of the President. The conference has in the past discussed administrative problems and political reforms which, however admirable as ideals, have hardly come within the range of practical politics. The reforms which have been secured during the last two years have been generally admitted to have exceeded the expectations of even the most sanguine of Indian politicians. With a view to the larger association of the people with the government, the Legislative Councils have been enlarged, and Indians have been admitted even into the inner councils of the Executive Government. So far, everything points to a hopeful and improved condition of affairs in the future.

Mr.Sesharigi Iyer devoted his Address largely to impressing on all parties in the government, the non-official leaders and the public the necessity for a correct appreciation of the needs of the times, and for combined efforts to secure reforms calculated to promote the common good of the Government and of the country. But when he proceeded to press for modifications and extensions in the Reform scheme on the strength of last year's satisfactory work of the expanded Legislative councils, he was advocating undue and undesirable

haste. The Reforms have lastly had a year's trial, and a more lengthy period must elapse before suggestions for radical alterations and amendments in the existing scheme can be usefully advanced. As Mr. Sesharigi Iyer himself said, we are too near in time to see the full significance of the proposeive movement just inaugurated, and therefore his suggestions for modifying the Reform scheme are not based on knowledge gained by sufficient experience of the working of the existing machinery. Referring to the congress and conferences, he was not prepared to concede that the necessity for their existence had gone, with the expansion and reconstitution of the Legislative councils. On the other hand, he asserted that the discontinuance of these annual gatherings would be one of the gravest acts of political wisdomxxxxxxxx without attempting to argue the question with him, we may express the opinion that he arrogates to these xxx gatherings an importance and a status which even their most enthusiastic supporters have not ventured to claim for them. It is incorrect to say that they play the roleof mentous to the Non-official members of the Legislative Councils, to whose organising activities in the main, they are their existence, and that these Members should receive their instructions" from bodies consisting largely of irresponsible individuals who have had no direct share in returning them to council. These bodies certainly have a usefulness of their own, more especially if their manders denote themselves to the study of local problems with a desire to strengthen the hands of the government, and so serve the laudable object of being very useful interpreters between the government and the governed. Other subjects dealt with by Mr. Sesahrigi Iyer related to the reform of religious endowments, the elevation of the depressed classes, the spread of Primary education, the organisation

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of a providend Fund for teachers, Industrial enterprise, the several other matters which have been often discussed in Recent years, both in the Press and on the Platform, and in regard to most of which there is considerable agreement between official and non-official opinion, though the rate of progress in these directions must necessarily be slow, owing to official caution and circumspection.

The Presidential Address dealt in a practical manner with certain administrative problems affecting the well being of the people of the Presidency of many of these Mr.Ramanuja chariar has had intimate knowledge during a long official career. In regard to most of the subjects he touched upon he adopted, practicably the views of the congress, and there was little originality in his criticisms of public questions. He had much that was sensible to say of the village Panchayat system, which in his opinion, gives scope for training the people in self help and self reliance. In common with many others, he regretted the disappearance, with the introduction of the ryotwari system, of the local autonomy which existed in India village and was the mainstay of communal life. He spoke with approval of the proposed reconstitution of local affairs as in days of old. He would give these bodies civil and criminal jurisdiction in petty casess and would entrust them with the supervision of sanitation, the construction of minor works, the maintenance of village schools and the management of markets and cattle pounds. He disapproved of the idea of making the village head the exofficia chairman of the Punchayat, and maintained that as a paid official of the Government charged with irksome duties, with made him

dependent on the subordinate officers of government, the village head was no longer among the leading ryots of the village. For the same reasons he would not have village officials in Taluq and District Boards. He condemned the excessive official control over Local Bodies, which he thought should be given respect freedom in the management of their own affairs. He spoke appreciatively of the part which financial undertakings, such as joint stock Banks mutual benefit funds and co-operative credit societies now played in training people in the business like management of financial concerns and indirectly in enabling them to devise measures for the promotion of trade and Industries, relieving people from indebtedness, and Generally in the establishment of mutual trust, the lack of which in the past has been such a serious inpediment to progress. As one who has served in the Revenue Department, the Presidents remark on Land Revenue problems deserve, as they no doubt will receive, careful consideration. Giving full credit to Government and their officers for having the best interests of the ryots in view in framing the Land settlements, the President said that there was an exparte flavour about the whole business, and that therefore it was necessary, in order to secure contentment among the ryots, that settlement scheme reports should be thoroughly discussed in the Legislative Council, and should be approved by a Resolution of the council before being put into operation. We fear, however, that this is a large and impracticable order. But the suggestion that publicity should be given to them by means of discussion of the details in the Legislative council deserves considerations, as it would probably serve to bring to light any serious

defect that existed in proposed schemes. A land Revenue code for the Madras Presidency on the lines of those of the other Provinces was, in the President's opinion, an urgent necessity.

The Conference proposes to discuss a wide range of subjects and adopt Resolutions for submission to the authorities. As we have often remarked before in regard to matters in which the final responsibility rests with the government, the members of the conference show great persistance and ~~thau~~unremitting activity; ~~but in matters which lie peculiarly within;~~ but in matters which lie peculiarly within their own sphere of action they have been put spasmodic in their efforts and have shown a regrettable want of concerted and sustained activity. As the President remarked in concluding his address, they have to instruct the people in the duties of citizenship, to ascertain their wants and wishes and to collect trustworthy date upon which Legislatures and publicists may rely. This work to be productive of any tangible results must be done on an organised basis and unremittingly, and not at fleeting conferences.

<u>Indians in South Africa.</u> 24 - 5 - 1911.

The news that the difficult probalem of Indians in the Transval has been provisionally settled will be received with satisfaction in his country. It appears from the telegram that the settlement is on the following lines. The obnoxious Asiatic Act of 1907 is to be repealed by legislation to be introduced next session, and legal equality as regards immigration is to be restored. The Indians agree to abandon passive resistance, and in response to this the Transvaal Government recognise the right of ten passive resisters to enter the Transvaal by virtue of their educational qualification, and undertake to reinstate passive, resisters who formerly had rights of residance. These passive resisters who are in prison are to be immediately released. It is evident from Mr. Louris Botha's statement to Reuter's representative that these concessions must not be regarded as opening the way for more concessions. It is, therefore, probable that Indian opinion will not be fully contended thereby. What Indians would wish to see is full admission of the rights of their countrymen as British subjects to enter any part of the Empire. But those who have stirred up public feeling on the subject in India have generally made the moderate demand that, while the self-governing colonies may remain at liberty to impost restrictions, there should be no nexatious distinctions and no harassment of those Indians who already possess rights of residence. It would appear that a sincere effort has at length been made to meet that demand, and no doubt Indians will show their appreciation. Mr.Lonis Both expresses the hope that Indians, both in South Africa and in India, will realise the great difficulty Mr.Smuts has had in obtaining

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the concessions already made. There is no reason to doubt the seriousness of the obstacles which have been overcome. The Transvaal Government can act only in accordance with popular feeling in the colony, so long as racial prejudice and the much stronger pressure of economic interests are against Indian immigration, the Government can not make any very extensive concessions. Having at length done as much as could reasonably be expected of them in the circumstances, the Transvaal Government have the right to look for co-operation from Indians in the colony, and doubtless they will receive it. It would be a serious error, in the state of public feeling in the Transvaal, either to disparage or to make too much of the concessions. They are to be accepted as substantial, if not completely satisfying, and as a proof of sincerity on the part of the Government, whose good faith has more than once been in question.

The Posession of Firearms. 21 - 6 - 1911.

Mr.James Short writes to us as follows "I am in entire accord with the suggestion made in your leader of Monday last anont the Tinnevelly outrage, that are stingent regulations should be imposed which would render the purchase and possession of revolvers far more irksome than at present. Section 5 of the Arms Act No.VI of 1878 runs as follows;-- "No person shall manufacture, convert, or sell or keep, offer or expose for sale, any arms, ammunition or military stores, except under a licence, and in the manner and to the extent permitted thereby. Nothing herein contained shall prevent any person from selling any arms or ammunition which he lawfully possesses for his own private use, to any person who is not, by any enactment for the time being in force prohibited from possessing the same, but every person so selling arms an ammunitions to any person other than a person entitted to possess the same by reason of an exemption under section 27 of this Act shall, without unnecessary delay, give to the District Magistrate or to the officer in charge of the nearest Police station, notice of the sale and of the purchaser's name and address.

Not withstanding the provisions of the section I have quoted, advertisements frequently appear in Newspapers of military officers and gentlemen leaving the country advertising their guns and revolvers for sale, and it seems to me there is nothing to prevent a person here who does not hold a licence responding to such advertisements and under a false name and address for a gun or revolver, remitting a portion of the purchase

price and requesting same to be sent by V.P.P.,either to be false address given or to care of a Postmaster in some out of the way place, who delivers same, in ignorance of its contents, to a person who appears and applies for the article and pays the balance of the purchase money. The military officer who so sells is, presumably, not aware that the purchaser does not possess a licence as required by the Act, and consequently does not give to the commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate of the place from which it was despatched the purchaser's name and address, and, even if he did, of what avail would it be if the purchaser, as I have siad, has given his vendor a false name and address. I verily believe that illicit trade in the purchase of fire arms is being carried over this way, and something ought to be done to stop the same.

No doubt under Section 35 of the Post office Act(VI of 1898) the Governor-general in council may make Rules as to the transmission by post of value payable postal articles and (a) declare what classes of postal articles may be sent as valu ~~able~~ payable, b) direct that no postal article shall be sent unless the sender declares that it is sent in execution of a benefide order received by him (c) limit the value to be recovered on the delivery of any value payable postal article and (d) prescribe the form of declaration to be made by the senders of value payable articles and the time and manner of payment of fees. I presume, therefore, that Rules have been passed making it compelsary, in the case of fire arms, for a person to make a declaration to that effect. But assuming such a declaration to be made, I am curious to

know whether the Post office at which the delivery takes place even informs or is under a duty to inform, the commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, of the recipnent's name and address, Besides, Europeans and are, I believe, entitled to have in their possession guns and revolvers without having to take out a license therefor; having been exempted under the provisions of section 27 of the Act, but very often they also, in ignorance of the provisions of the Act, dispose of the same by private sale to Indians without acquainting the commissioner of Police of the fact, as they are bound under the Act to do.

In conclusion, I find that under section 32 of the Arms Act the Local Government may from time to time, by notifications in the local official gazette, direct a census to be taken of all fire arms, in any local area, and empower any person by name or in virtue of his office to take such causes, on the issue of any such Notification, all persons possessing any such arms in such area shall furnish to the person so empowered such information as he may require in reference there to and shall produce such arms to him if he so requires. Any person refusing on neglecting to produce any such arms when so required shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to Rs. 200 on with both. Surely, the present is a fitting opportunity for the Madras Government to direct such a census to be forthwith taken in, say, the Tinnevelly District, and here after in such local areas in which they may consider it expedient to do so.

The Arms Act. 11 - 7 - 1911

In commenting on the Tinnevelly outrage we remarked that no person who desired to secure firearms for the purpose of political assassination seemed to have the least difficulty in doing so. It is not, however, this comparatively law abiding Presidency that affords most examples of the case with which assassins can acquire the means for their objects. We must look rather to Bengal, where one District officer, a vakil of the High Court, several Indian Police officiers and three approvers in political cases have fallen to the assasim's revolver, and where Sir Andrew Fraser would in all probability have been killed but for a machinical defect in the weapon levelled at him by an assailent. Firearms have also been freely used in dacoities in the two Bengals in recent years. In view of these facts it is not surprising that the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam have again submitted proposals for the restriction of possession of fire arms, and that the Government of India are inviting the opinions of other Provincial governments on the subject, as will be seen from an extract in another colemn. It is obvious that it would be useless to impose restrictions in one on two Provinces only, for the smuggling of revolvers from one part of India to another is perfectly easy. General restriction is therefore necessary. The form it is proposed to give it is the general prohibition of possession of firearms without a license. This, of course will affect Europeans for more than Indians, but we have no doubt that the Bengal Chamber of commerce is correct in supposing that Europeans will readily agree to a restriction that has become necessary in the interests of good order. Or course,

Of course, Europeans might be exampted, but it is doubtful if the safeguard would than be effective, as it would be easy enough for any persons assuming a European name to purchase firearms through the post without the transaction being suspected. More over, any such distinction might be the cause of some dissatisfaction to loyal and law abiding Indians. There is thus sufficient reason for requiring a licence in all cases and it would be unreasonable to regard as a hardship in India what is the rule in the united Kingdom. We welcome the action contemplated by the government of India. At the same time we must confess ourselves rather sceptical as to the complete efficacy of such measures, and we could deprecate any relaxation of vigilence in the general checks on political activity of a suspicious character on the supposition that Acts which make it difficult for anarchists to precure explasives or firearms are sufficient safeguards.

East and West in India.   12 - 7 - 1911.

The Hon'ble Mr.G.K.Gokhale contributes to the current number of the Hindustan Review" a thoughtful article on East and West In India, which he is reading before the universal Races congress in London this month. His general view of the subject may be learned from the extracts from his article, and we will notice here only a few of the more important points he makes. In Mr.Gokhale's opinion, the relations between Englishmen and Indians in this country are determined mainly by political considerations, and for any change in them we must look mainly to developments in policy. To this opinion we can give only a qualified assert. It is true, as he says, that greater freedom in social Intercourse between Englishman and Indians in this country cannot alone produce any great improvement in their relations, for it must of necessity be limitted while, as he does not fail to perceive, it sometimes produce problems of its own that are not easily solved without irritation to one side or the other. But we are not therefore justified in assuming that politics, in the narrow sense, are practically the determining factor in the relations between the King Emperor's British and Indian subjects. To an immensely large proportion of the peoples of India the matters discussed at the Indian National congress and in the Legislative councils are almost meaning less and certainly remote. It is only the attitude of a comparatively small section of the Indian peoples that is appreciably affected by the

Government's concession or denial of the requests preferred by Mr.Gokhale and his friends in the name of the people. However, subject to these qualifications, Mr.Gokhale's view is correct.

He appears to us, nevertheless, to be mistaken in ascribing the change in the attitude of educated Indians, from one of the utmost admiration for the benefits of British rule and Western civilisation to one of critical mistrust or hostility, simply to the policy of the Government, to their failure to meet political aspirations. We believe, and one by no means singular in believing, that educated Indians about thirty years or more age realised that their real for social reform on Western lines was bringing them into conflict with the conservatism of their own peoples, and therex upon turned to politics in order to avoid alieanating such popular following as they had. It was largely a strategic movement, though the strategy in many cases was no doubt not quite conscious. As regards the future, Mr.Gokhale is anxious for a declaration of Great Britain's intentions in India. But who has the right to pledge away the future? certainly not the British Government who may be swept away by a General Election within a year and who were returned to power on quite other issues. It is natural that Mr.Gokhale showed desire rapid advance towards representative government strictly so called, but true representation of the Indian people such as the democratic ideal requires is inconceivable in present circumstances, and must long remain so. It is the business of Great Britain to tule India with as much regard for Indian wishes as possible, but not to bind herself as to the some remote future.

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